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LETTER DATED 22 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER FOR THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the statement concerning the situation in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its special session held in Cairo on 10 September 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hussein HASSOUNA
Ambassador
Permanent Observer for the
League of Arab States

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Annex

Statement adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 10 September 1997 concerning the situation in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros

The Council of the League has held an extraordinary meeting at the level of Permanent Representatives at the request of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros. Proceeding from its commitment to the unity, integrity and sovereignty of all member States and having considered the developments in the current crisis in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros caused by the announcement by certain elements on the islands of Anjouan (Nzwani) and Mohéli (Mwali) of their secession from the Comoros federation, the Council affirms that it upholds the unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Comoros and that the endeavour should be made to settle the dispute between the Comorian parties by peaceful means.

Given that the Comorian crisis is essentially caused by the difficult economic situation of the Republic of the Comoros, the Council calls upon the international community to provide all forms of economic support and to participate in the round-table conference that is to be held shortly with a view to meeting the urgent economic needs of the Republic of the Comoros and enabling it to establish the conditions that will create balanced development among the various Comorian islands.

In the framework of the coordination and integration of existing inter-Arab and inter-African action by the general secretariats of the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity, the Council affirms its support for the good offices being exercised by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

The Council urges all the Comorian parties to do everything possible to ensure the success of the international conference to consider the Comorian crisis and secure a negotiated political solution among the parties to the dispute under the auspices of the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity.

The Council requests the Secretary-General of the League to monitor developments in the situation in the Republic of the Comoros and to take whatever initiatives he deems appropriate, including the dispatch of a special envoy to the Republic of the Comoros in order to support the efforts of the Organization of African Unity and participate in devising a solution to the current Comorian crisis.